
MEDIA RELEASE

WOOLSEY FIRE UNIFIED COMMANDERS



Woolsey Fire Safety Message

Hazards

Please be mindful of people working in the area as essential services are restored. Please stay vigilant as you drive into areas that have been impacted by the fire as road crews, firefighters, and other personnel are focused on completing their assignments. As traffic flow is introduced into these areas, people may be more focused on the damage and not aware of their immediate surroundings. Please stay alert and pay attention.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area reminds the public that the only area open and accessible on National Park Service land currently is Rancho Sierra Vista. Any trails into and on Point Mugu State Park remain closed.

While NPS staff work diligently to clear hazards as quickly as possible there are still many unmitigated hazards. For your safety please respect any and all closures.

Power

As the area is repopulated, please be aware that you may return to no power and there may be intermittent power outages and associated street closures as power is restored throughout the impacted areas. For more information about current power outages, please check online at <https://www.sce.com/outage-center>

Natural Gas

As natural gas service is restored to areas that have been deemed safe, assessments and necessary repairs are underway. For safety reasons, customers should never attempt to restore natural gas service themselves. If you have questions about the service restoration process or about your natural gas service, please contact SoCalGas at 1-877-238-0092 or online at <https://www.socalgas.com/newsroom/fires>

Water Conservation

Fire officials ask that members of the public make an extra effort to conserve water when returning home. Limiting indoor and outdoor water use will help in providing firefighters with an adequate supply of water to continue protecting lives and property during this critical time.

Falling Debris

With the opening of Malibu Canyon Road, all people must be mindful of falling debris to include falling rocks. Due to fire suppression activities, rocks may have been dislodged from water drops and topsoil in certain areas may be unstable.

Storm Preparation

Post-fire soil conditions in areas adjacent to mountains and hills are well known for their ability to produce rock and debris flows. These rock and debris flow form rapidly, and the outcome is often devastating during high-intensity rainfall. Additionally, areas that are not typically prone to flooding may now be at new risk due to higher than usual flows in nearby streams and creeks.

In preparation of post-fire upcoming rain events, the Counties of Ventura and Los Angeles, and the cities within, have transitioned into an emergency response organization, with an emphasis on debris, flood-fighting and support activities. Ventura County, Los Angeles County, and the cities within, are partnering with FEMA, Cal-OES, Caltrans, and other state and federal agencies. This effort involves public safety entities in all categories (engineering, technical, administrative and maintenance). Staff will be storm monitoring rainfall rates, stream flow rates, and conducting field patrols, computer modeling, and flood flow forecasting.

Activities include both the pre-planned routines such as the monitoring of all flood facilities and equipment, the operation of debris dams, and the provision of logistics support, field operations and responses to emergency situations.

Here are a few ways to obtain weather information from the National Weather Service:

Weather Forecast Office: <https://www.weather.gov/>. Enter your city in the upper left-hand section of the webpage for local weather.

Sandbags and sand will be made available to all residents at Los Angeles County and Ventura County fire stations.

Additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS/Drones)

As aircraft operations continue in the area impacted by the fire, the public is reminded to never fly Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS/drones) near wildfires. Due to the potential for collision, when a UAS is detected flying over or near a wildfire, air operations must be suspended until all UAS flying in a fire area are removed. A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is currently in place in areas over the impacted area until January 15, 2019.

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